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THE BURMA NEWS



DECEMBER, 1932

FROM THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONS IN BURMA AND ASSAM

THE BURMA NEWS

H. W. SMITH, *Editor.*

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No. 12

Delights of Evangelism at Pyinmana

What a delightful time we have had with our evangelistic teams during November! New opportunities have been waiting in unsuspected places. We have come to discover new powers in our students, teachers and other Christians.

Many are seeking to deepen their own spiritual lives by prayer, Bible study and Christian fellowship in preparation to go out and serve others. At the Wednesday night prayer meeting each of our six teams reports as if it had had the best opportunity of all. There are two teams from the High School, one from the Women's Society and three from the Agricultural School. The young people give most of the reports about the week's efforts and then we divide up into three classes for training. One class under nurse Ma Laura studies health work; I take a second on telling Bible stories and giving testimonies; a third class is lead by a school teacher or preacher to prepare for teaching the next Sunday school lesson.

The little trailer (which formerly had been used by Dr. McCurdy) hitched on behind our little Ford car makes us able to carry a party of fourteen in our team. We usually try to reach a big bazaar in our week-end circuit. There we divide into two or three groups and work at different places simultaneously. One member gives an agricultural talk or a demonstration, another talks on health and

dispenses medicines, a third gives a personal testimony or tells a Bible story, and a fourth who is usually a preacher or teacher gives a religious talk on the spiritual contribution we wish to make. This is followed by individual conversation with interested hearers and the taking of names of those who would like to have us visit their homes for further instruction.

Part of the day we spend visiting from home to home in small groups, playing games with the children and telling them stories. We take along seeds and plant them beside interested homes, we clean up dirty yards and in some places construct a sanitary latrine for a family. In the evening we have a concert, give a drama and preach again.

Our Barred Rock cocks and Pyinmana pigs have often gone before us to create interest for us and make us welcome. The cordiality everywhere has almost astonished us. There are so many hearts ready prepared, waiting to welcome us. People have just been wishing that we would come.

We do not know how far these friends will go in the Christian way of life, but we have found that what we do "is good for the boys" who go and some who took us into their homes have said "We are so happy we cannot eat." The Women's Society goes out every other week to some village and the women say "We

never knew we could preach before, but when the people came we couldn't help it."

We want every Christian to be an evangelistic worker, and we are glad to see so many catching the enthusiasm, some of whom are still new in the Christian life. All who try it find there are delights in evangelistic work.

Brayton C. Case.



Rev. Conrad Seriously Ill

A letter of the 29th November from Mrs. C. L. Conrad of the Pwo Karen Mission, Bassein, informs us that Mr. Conrad is in the Civil Hospital seriously ill with typhoid and para-typhoid fever. His condition is such that Mrs. Conrad is permitted to visit once a day and even then Mr. Conrad is not permitted to talk. The blood test showed typhoid plus plus (1 to 250) and para-typhoid plus (1 in 50). The hospital officials consider the case rather serious.

It appears that Mr. Conrad went out to kill some elephants for Government some time ago and apparently contracted the fever at that time. Three mill hands accompanied him on the same boat, one of whom has been running fever ever since and another is now in the hospital with symptoms similar to Mr. Conrad's case.

Mrs. Conrad is much concerned regarding the condition of her husband. We are assured that the mission folk and friends will bear them up in prayer and remembrance.



Karen Language Examination

Miss Charity Carman, of Moulmein, appeared for the second examination in the Karen language, on the 15th of October, 1932, and passed with credit.

H. I. Marshall,
For the Committee.

Encouraging Prospects

The recommendation, by the Committee of Reference, to appoint Rev. and Mrs. R. Cummings to Sagaing, afforded my wife and me very much pleasure and deep satisfaction. In that town we spent some seven years and realize keenly the vast need for evangelistic work which the surrounding hundreds of villages call for. Immediately opposite Sagaing are two townships which comprise 1,10,000 people. The five districts, included in Sagaing Division, contain over one million inhabitants. We earnestly hope that nothing may prevent their going there. I know of no needier field in Burma.

Much encouragement has come to me from results of carrying the Gospel to the 120 sweepers and cartmen employed by the Municipality at this station. Nine names are before me of men who have fully decided to leave Hinduism and devote themselves to the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ. They may probably be baptized on Christmas day, at the one o'clock Hindustani service. Our Gurkha evangelist is delighted over the outcome of his efforts on their behalf, crowned with God's blessing.

Several nat-altars have, recently, been removed from houses of believing Kachins, and it is expected that five or six may be ready for baptism when I go to Lashio in December. The primitive tribes go into the Kingdom of God in advance of the Burmans who cling to pagodas and other materialistic forms of joyless and hopeless Buddhism. Our fervent prayers ascend constantly for the Burman Buddhists. When, oh when will they see in Christ the one and all sufficient Saviour and Revealer of the living God and turn whole-heartedly and eagerly to Him?

E. Grigg.



"Defect in manners is usually the defect of fine perceptions."

—Emerson.

Chin Mission, Thayetmyo

A report of a Chin pastor of eleven baptisms brings the number so far this year to 136 compared with 106 for all of last year. And last year was above the average. Other Chin villages have candidates awaiting baptism.

Two Daily Vacation Bible Schools in November have over 100 children enrolled.

Recently a Burman came to have a tooth extracted. The Burman lady with him told me that a phongyi (Buddhist priest) had some teeth that should be taken out but that he was ill and not able to come. I told them I would be glad to go and relieve him of the offending teeth if they would permit me to go with my shoes on. I told them that according to the English custom it was disrespectful to take off one's shoes. In a few minutes a man came with the news that the phongyi had come out of his compound. I went, extracted 3 of his teeth and 12 from his school boys. He has beri-beri and I advised him regarding his diet. The next day a man came to inquire more about his diet. I noticed some men had ringworm and invited them to come to my house for medicine. The next Sunday afternoon there were five here in yellow robes, and another day four. I have gained the goodwill of quite a number of Burman phongyis by extracting teeth. I would not have known them otherwise.

Burmans from jungle villages are coming here for extraction. They would not go to the hospital. And they would not have come into this compound.

I have extracted over 1,400 teeth so far in 1932 and over 3,200 in the 4 years of this term of service. The Rangoon Gazette referred to it as, "Dentistry without Tears."

E. Carroll Conduct.

Maubin Matters

The "Robbins Party" have come and gone, and we are glad for the fellowship and service that they have brought to us. But certainly plans did go "agley" so far as the launch arrangements were concerned. Who the Jonah was in the party we cannot say. Don't think it was "I" for all went well until our dignitaries came aboard and then alas! Our fine new engine that we have so counted upon to carry out our plans, simply refused to crank for an hour and a half, and this made us miss an appointment on the way from Wakema to Maubin and held us up in Maubin on the Pyapon trip. But the Pyapon daily made it possible for the party to reach Pyapon ahead of scheduled time, much to the disappointment of all the villagers on the way that were to greet us as we went along. It has been a real disappointment to us all, but we'll try to make the best of it.

From November 3 to 24 we were able to visit seventeen villages, holding services with the Christians, visiting both Christian and non-Christian homes and having sectional conferences in two of our Christian villages where a large number met for a day of inspiration and discussion of the things of the kingdom.

Our evening campaigns have been well attended, and in several of the villages we have found really earnest enquirers regarding the way of life.

Next week we shall be off again, and shall be away until the end of the month. Pray for our Maubin field.

Minnie B. Pound.



Metronome Wanted

If anyone has a second hand metronome which they would be willing to give or sell to "Rest Haven," I wish they would communicate with me.

A. B. Grey.

Burma Baptist Missionary Conference

The program which is being prepared by the Arrangement Committee for the Conference at Maymyo, April 4 to 10, does not include any papers, the plan being to divide the time between devotions and business.

The first evening is assigned to a social (J. R. Andrus, chairman of special committee) and introduction of missionaries, followed by the keynote address of the President, on the theme "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me." The next morning, and following mornings, there is a sunrise service. Experience shows that there are spiritual gains at such meetings, if leader and group are prayerful and thoughtful, even without the aid of a lake-side setting. Dr. McGuire has consented to take charge of the devotions at the end of each morning business session. Near the middle of the afternoon session, time is set aside for a season of prayer, in charge of the President.

The remaining evenings are reserved for religious services. Doubtless the leader's message will bring out congregational testimony and prayer in some cases; in others it will be appropriated and taken home by the listeners without spoken comment.

The Conference Sermon, by Dr. Robbins, will be at the time of the regular English service, Sunday evening, followed by the communion service.

It is hoped that the printed report of the Policy and Program Committee will be in the hands of the missionaries before they come to the Conference. The reports of the Foreign Secretary and Field Secretary, with the abstract of this committee's report and necessary comments thereon, are placed rather early in the program, followed by miscellaneous business, with the open discussion and action on the Policy and Program report toward the end.

Those responsible for reports from institutions are urged to bring them to the Conference in printed or mimeographed form, so that it will not be necessary to read aloud the entire report, the reporting member merely calling attention to salient items. The Conference secretary will arrange for mimeographing if reports are sent to him in time.

Wm. B. Campbell.



Change of Dates

It becomes necessary to make one further change in the itinerary for Dr. Robbins and Dr. Padelford. Cushing High School was scheduled for the 27th December and the Burman Joint Committee for the 22nd December, but it will be more convenient for all concerned to have these two dates inter-changed, so that the Joint Committee will fall on the 27th of December. This makes it possible for those who come in for the Joint Committee to also stay over for the educational conference if they are educationalists and it is to be hoped that some of those sent will be educationalists.

Cordially yours,

C. E. Chaney,

Field Secretary.



A Coming Visitor

Word has been received from Mrs. Goodman that Mrs. E. S. Osgood of Chicago will be arriving in Rangoon soon after Christmas on the way to the Bengal Orissa field where she will spend some time with her grandson. Mrs. Osgood was formerly a member of the Board of the West. Her special interest is C.W.C. work. She has a genuine interest in our work and it is hoped that she may be given the opportunity to see all that she desires of the work in Burma.

E. L. Adams.

The Meaning of Religious Education.

Extracts from a chapter by this title in the report of the 1931 deputation on Religious Education in the Chinese Church.

The main, if not the only, function of the church is to educate young and old for the Christian life.

A religious educator is one who appliest the art and methods of the teacher to his work in order to educate people for the Christian life.

A religious educator in the church is none the less an evangelist because he is an educator. His special function is to evangelize through religious education.

He who came preaching, teaching and healing, had but one single purpose. The single purpose of Jesus Christ was evangelism.

Evangelism is barren, says Dr. Luther Weigle, if it be without educative result. Religious education that is not evangelistic is not Christian.

Any method whereby the gospel of Jesus Christ is brought to bear in effective saving power upon the lives of people, old and young, women and children, is rightly to be termed evangelistic. Not evangelism or religious education, but evangelism through Christian religious education, is the need of the world to-day.

OBJECTIVES IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1. To foster in growing persons a consciousness of God as a reality in human experience and a sense of personal relationship to Him.

2. To lead growing persons into an understanding and appreciation of the personality, life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

4. To develop in growing persons the ability and disposition to participate in and contribute constructively to the building of the social order embodying the ideal of

the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man.

5. To lead growing persons to build a life philosophy on the basis of a Christian interpretation of life and the universe.

6. To develop in growing persons the ability and disposition to participate in the organized society of Christians—the church.

7. To effect in growing persons the assimilation of the best religious experience of the race, as effective guidance to present experience.



Educational Conference

Several have made inquiry as to who of the missionary staff are expected to attend the Educational Conference with Dr. Robbins and Dr. Padelford on the 28th and 29th. The Conference was planned primarily for those carrying on educational work, but other missionaries interested in this Conference are welcome. It is also desired to have a fair representation of English-speaking indigenous educationalists, and we suggest that each school send one or two members of its staff. There has been no provision made to meet the expense of such representatives, and we suggest that each school arrange for meeting these expenses. The Reference Committee has not had under consideration the question of meeting the expense of travel for missionaries attending this Conference and we cannot say whether the Committee will be able to make provision for this expense. It is arranged that the opening session be set at 8 o'clock, on the evening of the 27th when the preliminaries of the Conference will be taken care of, and the program for the following days out-lined. Field Sec'y.



"Humility is the hall-mark of wisdom."

—Jeremy Collier.

Sagaing Salutations

The Gospel Team which went to Myitkyina the latter part of September, stopped for a few days with us. We went to Shwebo from Sagaing, a distance of about sixty miles, and had a fine time meeting the Christians there and encouraging them with songs and testimonies. We also went to Chaukmyaung, seventeen miles further on, where the road ends at the river, and had a wonderful bazaar meeting. Hundreds heard the preaching of the word in the bazaar, and we are praying that they will not be able to forget the message.

Then we all came back to Sagaing. It did not take the children in the school long to fall in love with the Gospel Team, and they were always on the lookout for them, following them around when they came out of the house. They learned the songs very quickly and by the second day were singing English, Burmese and Karen songs as if they had known them always. We had two evening meetings and quite a number of the day pupils came. At the close of the Sunday morning service, when the invitation was given, seventeen came forward. Some are the children of Christians, others have some Christian relative, but a number have non-Christian parents. The opposition came rather quickly in one case, as the mother brought her daughter back to the school, crying and lamenting the fact that the girl should bring this shame on the family by wishing to be baptized. The headmistress and the pastor talked with her, and I am sure she understands now. The pastor is having an instruction class for those who wish to be baptized, and we are very glad that the baptistry in our new church will most probably be used quite soon. Pray for these young followers of Jesus.

We also went across the river to Tadda U and were there for almost two days. We visited in some homes,

and had one fine preaching service at the home of the Christian Karen midwife working there. This home is right on the bazaar street and many came in to listen, while others stopped to listen for a while. Many others heard the message as they listened behind shuttered windows, or squatted just out of sight. On the way home we stopped at the Judson Memorial, and by stretching our arms we were able to form a complete circle around the stone. San Po Thein started the song "Faith of our Fathers" and we all sang as long as our husky voices permitted. In a short prayer we all re-dedicated our lives to the service of Him whom Judson served amidst so much suffering. What a joy and privilege it is to carry on the work begun so long ago. And after we had sung another hymn we went home.

We are very grateful to Mr. Dudrow that he had the Gospel Team go to Myitkyina, as that enabled us to have them here. They helped us all and we trust that some time we may do something in return.

The other day a Burmese boy came to me and asked me to tell him about Christianity. He had seen our sign at the fence, which invited all those who wanted to know more about Christ, to come in and ask. I talked with him a little, and then sent him to the pastor. He later reported that the boy seemed to be a real seeker. Yesterday he came again, bringing a friend, who said he also wanted to know more about Christianity. I explained as well as I could, in words of one syllable, and gave them the Gospel of John, also a letter to Mr. Hinton in Mandalay, as they said they were attending school there. They reminded me of the Greeks who came to see Jesus. It does seem as if there were watchful, interested listeners all

about us, and we need to be much in prayer that we may always be guided by the Holy Spirit to be ready to witness and to give no offence to the "least of these."

Frieda Peter.



Appeal for Orphanage

The Orphanage Report for the year always comes before the Conference in October as you know, but this year it will be rather late and we just want to call your attention to the fact that we closed the year in debt and also that we are getting very little money in these days. We owe quite a bit right now for school fees and other things and have not the funds to pay them. These children must have food and clothing right along also. The Committee asks that you remember this work and send what you can right away to help us out. The Moulmein missionaries have decided not to give Christmas gifts to one another this year and make a larger gift to help out both the Hospital and the Orphanage. Would not some of you like to do likewise? It would mean much to us if you would.

M. J. Hackett.



Christian Community Pageant

A Christian community pageant entitled "The Gift of Love" is being arranged for presentation in Dalhousie Park, at the Royal Lakes, Rangoon, on the evening of December 26. The Christian community of all churches and denominations are co-operating in this pageant and there is every indication of a most impressive demonstration. A group of twenty from Morton Lane Girls' School will participate in the pageant and they hope to form a nucleus for a similar demonstration at a later date in Moulmein.



"The greatest of faults, I should say, is to be conscious of none."
—Carlyle.

Letter from Miss Phillips

Route 1, Box 125,
Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Friends,

If thoughts could express themselves on paper without the aid of the arms and hands your interesting letters would have received many answers. In order that you may understand what I mean by that statement I shall attempt to explain it. Last May, there was an epidemic of summer colds in this fair city and of course I had to be one of the victims. I seemed to recover from the cold but could not overcome the regular paroxysms of coughing caused by it. Finally at the end of the month I was so exhausted that the doctor put me back to bed with strict orders to refrain from using my right hand, etc. I kept absolutely quiet for two months but the coughing spells continued. Both the doctor and I began to feel discouraged about my terrible behaviour. I knew that there would be no use to try to get up until I was over the spells. After my X-ray which I had about two weeks ago the doctor decided as a last resort to give me codeine hypodermics. They have stopped the hard spasms and as a result I am already feeling much happier and much stronger. I am hoping that, that which is causing the cough will have a chance to clear up before very long, at least, before I have to stop the injections. Some good folk who heard indirectly that I was not using my right arm this summer accused me of being afflicted with that wretched malady called arthritis. I have had many "itises" since I have been here but am thankful to say that I have never had arthritis and shall not have to fear it because in this section of the world it is considered a rich man's disease. As usual I have disposed of the most uninteresting subject first and now I can talk about other things.

It was so hot in Tucson during part of the summer that I longed for the cool hot season breezes of dear old Rangoon. The thermometer climbed to 112 degrees before the month of May was over. At the end of June, the rainy weather began and we ceased to bake or roast and began to steam. Just now we are having ideal days and nights, cool but not too cold. It was about this time last year that I caught the cold which was "my undoing" but am happy to report that I have at last lost or rather overcome my susceptibility to colds and for that reason can look forward to happier days.

A lovely surprise awaited me on the day on which I went to town for my X-ray. I wondered why Mrs. Lundbergh's brother drove me all over the country instead of

bringing me directly home. Of course I thought that he was just trying to show me the country. Before we arrived at the house he began to toot the horn. Instead of taking me back to my own cottage he stopped at the cottage which is in the nicest location on the place and ordered me to get out. I discovered that while I was away Mrs. Lundbergh and her sister-in-law had moved all of my possessions. It was a lovely surprise.

The good Baptists of Tucson have decided that it is their duty to keep me informed about Missions. One good lady came often and each time brought about four or five Mission study books which I must read. Finally I had to ask her for a vacation. Just after I had made the request a little Presbyterian lady called to see me and asked if she could come out each day to read to me. Of course I was glad to have her do so. Imagine my surprise the next day when she appeared with a Mission study book which she had decided to read to me. I enjoy these books but an occasional change would do me good.

I have just received a letter from Miss Sutherland written from a hospital in Lorain, Ohio. She was enroute to Chicago with a friend. They were in a motor car accident and Miss Sutherland suffered a broken nose, a broken knee cap, etc. She is recovering nicely and expects to leave for La Jolla, California, soon. She is taking a few months vacation from work. Dr. Tilbe was also in a motor accident recently. He received a terrible shock when he was thrown from the car but had only slight injuries the worst being a cut over the eye in which one stitch had to be taken.

Of course the entire country is excited over the coming election. I sincerely hope that Hoover will be re-elected. Night before last I listened to a wonderful address which he gave at Des Moines. As Coolidge says "he is a safe man." I have listened to many of Roosevelt's long speeches but have discovered nothing constructive in his remarks.

I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate your letters. I wish I could write to each of you as often as I want to write. I rejoice to hear the good news about the work in Burma. Of course there are many trying problems to face especially at this time but after all they may result in Kingdom progress.

Although I have had many unexpected set backs since I have been here I am still hopeful about the future. The people here are wonderful to me and the doctor is doing everything which human medical skill can do. He has been not only a doctor but a real friend. I have learned many lessons during this long period of forced rest. I know now the worth of true friends and

I also know that it pays to be a Christian and to stick to one's Christian ideals in the midst of most difficult surroundings. I also know what it means to try to be cheerful and hopeful when everything looks dark and discouraging.

I promised my good doctor that I would not write long letters and I must stop immediately because I discover that I am about to break that promise.

With lots of love to each of you,
Mary Phillips.



Electric Train for Sale

A brand new electric train and track set has been left at the Press by Mrs. Blackwell and is offered for sale at Rs. 15. The voltage is 110.



Notice

Vegetables will be in season December through February at the Pyinmana Agricultural School—Lima beans start in December and tomatoes in January. Kyantaga sugar will be available in December. We have pork to ship on Thursdays. Let us know what you want. Brayton C. Case.



Birth

At Berkeley, Cal., October 13, 1932, to Rev. and Mrs. E. T. Fletcher, a son, William Catherwood, 10 lbs. 2 oz.



Arrivals

On November 12, per S.S. *Worcestershire*, Rev. T. H. Telford.

On December 1, per S.S. *Kandalla*, Mr. H. W. Smith.



Mission Guest House Receives Welcome Gift

You will all rejoice with me that a very handsome gift for the Guest House has been sent to the mission from a "friend in America." It will be sufficient to build the new cook house so badly needed, to build new drains complete, to furnish all the rooms with new Simmons beds (which Mrs. Wiatt is buying for us) and to provide various other long-needed comforts. Those of you who use the house know best what it lacks. I would appreciate your suggestions as to what things are most desirable and needed. Do not be afraid to use your imagination, and tell me what the house should have, to be both comfortable and attractive. The present beds with springs and poles are for sale.

E. N. Chaney,
Superintendent of The Guest House.

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